

8. OCCURRENCE OF THE TEREK SANDPIPER, *TRINGA TEREK* (LATHAM) IN KERALA

Though the distribution of the Terek Sandpiper is given in the *HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN* : 2 (1969) as ' Winter visitor to the entire seaboard from W. Pakistan . . . and western India from Kutch and Saurashtra south to the tip of the Peninsula . . . ', the bird is not included by Sálím Ali in the *BIRDS OF KERALA* (1969). This is curious because in the ' Vernay Survey of the Eastern Ghats ' (*JBNHS* 39 : 255) Whistler has stated that he was told by Phythian-Adams that he shot 2 from a flock at Cannanore on 12th December, 1931. Whistler refers also to Jerdon's record of having seen this bird once ' at the edge of the Trichur Lake '.

On 24th November, 1968, on the sands at the mouth of the Dharmadam River, I saw two small sandpipers which had strikingly up-turned bills. I watched them from a distance of 25 yards, through 10×45 binoculars with the sun behind me. Details noted down on the spot are given below :

Size about the same as that of the Little Ringed Plover ; legs and feet pale orange or yellowish-orange ; long up-curved, slender bill horny-black except for the basal one-third which was red ; a faint supercilium.

One of the birds had a broken right leg, and it hopped about instead of running like its companion. There were a few Sandpipers about, but these two remained together all the time.

The up-curved bill and the orange legs make the identity of the bird quite certain.

GOVT. BRENNEN COLLEGE,
DHARMADAM,
KERALA,
May 25, 1969.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

9. THE SMOKY LEAF WARBLER, *PHYLLOSCOPUS* *FULIGIVENTER* (HODGSON) IN NEPAL

On 18 June 1964, while surveying the alpine avifauna of the Gosainkund region of central Nepal, I observed at close range a leaf warbler which I had no difficulty in identifying as *Phylloscopus fuligiventer* from its peculiar habit of foraging on big boulders. The only other leaf warbler to clamber about rocks and boulders is *Ph. griseolus*, a greyer bird with yellowish buff underparts which, occurs on arid slopes west of Lahul and Spiti. *Ph. fuligiventer* is a dull brownish olive bird with greenish yellow underparts and supercilium. Its song, for which I can find no published description, is a monotonous repetition of a single

note that may be rendered as *tsli-tsli-tsli-tsli-tsli* or sometimes an almost disyllabic *tsuli* . . . The area was a rock-strewn alpine meadow at an altitude of 4300 metres, well above tree-line and also above scrub growth. See also the *Ibis* 107 (1965) : 400-401.

Another sight record is reported by G. Diesselhorst (Khumbu Himal, Vol. 2 : 273, Innsbruck-München, 1968) from Gokyo north of Namche Bazar at nearly 5000 m. on July 27. The altitude, habitat and behaviour undoubtedly indicate *Ph. fuligiventer*, a species not heretofore reported west of Sikkim in the breeding season.

U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,
DIVISION OF BIRDS,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560,
September 20, 1969.

M. DESFAYES

10. NESTS OF THE BAYA, *PLOCEUS PHILIPPINUS* (LINNAEUS) ON TELEGRAPH WIRES

Colonies of the nest of the Baya (*Ploceus philippinus*) on telegraph wires are not unknown in India (Kirkpatrick 1952 ; F. N. Betts 1952). However, the following observations may perhaps be of interest.

While searching for breeding colonies of the Finn's Baya in Dhora Dam area, near Rudrapur, Kumaon terai, Naini Tal Dist., on 10 September, 1962, I saw a very large concentration of Baya nests on the telegraph wires running through sugarcane fields. In all there were 117 nests distributed in seven groups of 7, 14, 70, 5, 4, 5 and 12 nests. The breeding season was nearly over, but a few nests contained young ones as evidenced by the feeding trips of the parents. The nests were without long attachments, and the entrance tubes of the nests were also greatly reduced.

These structural adaptations to the new situation of the nesting site probably serve to reduce swinging movements. It was interesting to observe that although suitable trees were available bordering the sugarcane fields yet the birds selected the telegraph wires for nesting.

NEW RANGARI BLOCK,
OLD G.B. ROAD,
BANDRA, BOMBAY,
May 20, 1969.

V. C. AMBEDKAR

REFERENCES

BETTS, F. N. (1952) : Birds nesting on telegraph wires, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 51 : 271.

KIRKPATRICK, K. M. (1952) : Baya (*Ploceus philippinus* Linn.) nests on telegraph wires, *ibid* 52 : 657.